

**AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS**

The following listing of claims will replace all prior versions and listings of claims in the application:

**Listing of Claims:**

1. (Currently amended): A method of keeping an aqueous solution of sodium borate liquid at a storage temperature, ~~in which method said method comprising,~~ in order to pass said solution from an initial temperature to the storage ~~temperature, temperature;~~

~~subjecting~~ said aqueous solution of sodium borate ~~is subjected~~ to heat treatment comprising at least one cooling or heating operation at a speed lying in the range 1°C/min to 100°C/min, to reach a holding temperature lying in the range -50°C to +200°C, followed by

~~holding the holding temperature for a time lying in the range 4-2 h to 100 h, followed by~~  
~~cooling or heating at a speed lying in the range 1°C/min to 100°C/min,~~

~~so that crystallization is avoided and the solution remains in the form of a viscous liquid.~~

2. (Previously presented): A method according to claim 1, wherein the heat treatment includes at least two holding operations at different holding temperatures.

3. (Previously presented): A method according to claim 1, wherein, prior to performing the heat treatment, the aqueous solution of sodium borate is at an initial temperature lying in the range 100°C to 180°C, and after performing the heat treatment, the aqueous solution of sodium borate is at a storage temperature lying in the range -50°C to +300°C.

4. (Previously presented): A method according to claim 3, wherein the storage treatment lies in the range -20°C to +50°C.

5. (Previously presented): A method according to claim 1, wherein the aqueous solution of sodium borate contains 5% to 65% by weight of sodium borate.

6. (Previously presented): A method according to claim 5, wherein the aqueous solution of sodium borate further contains 0% to 10% by weight of soda.

7. (Currently amended): A method of generating hydrogen in which comprising:  
causing sodium borohydride is caused to react with water and,  
extracting therefrom both a gaseous mixture constituted mainly of hydrogen and an aqueous solution of sodium borate are extracted therefrom, wherein, and  
subjecting the aqueous solution of sodium borate is subjected to the method according to claim 1.

8. (Currently amended): The method of claim 7, comprising feeding the hydrogen to a fuel cell.

9. (Previously presented): The method of claim 8, wherein the fuel cell is the fuel cell of

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a motor vehicle.

10. (Cancelled)

11. (New): The method of claim 1, wherein the holding temperature is held for a time lying in the range 8 h to 100 h.

12. (New): The method of claim 1, wherein the holding temperature is held for a time lying in the range 15 h to 100 h.

13. (New): The method of claim 1, wherein the initial temperature is in a range from 100 to 180°C, and the storage temperature is in a range from -20 to 50°C.